

NOTES AND NEWS.

On the 27th of January last the Union suffered the loss of one of its most distinguished and universally beloved foreign representatives. There passed away upon that date Professor Robert Collett, the Director of the Natural History Museum of Christiania, Norway, an author of many works, and a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1883.

Prof. Collett was born in Christiania on the 2d of December, 1842, and consequently he was, at the time of his death, in his 71st year. He was connected with many distinguished people of his own country, being the oldest son of Professor P. J. Collett and the widely known authoress Camilla Collett.

From his earliest boyhood his entire nature exhibited the unmistakable evidences of the coming naturalist, and, although never of a robust physique, or of the strenuous type, he won his title to fame through his supreme gentleness of manner and bearing, as well as through his nobleness of character and sterling qualities.

Academically, he received his education at the University of Christiania, while upon the other hand his ever increasing fund of knowledge was directly attributable to the tuition of that teacher of all teachers of every naturalist — Mother Nature.

His early attainments soon won position for him; in 1871 he became assistant curator of the Zoölogical Museum of Christiania, and three years later full curator of that institution. His country, too, was quick to recognize the marked value of his first contributions to the literature of zoölogical science, and, as his various works were published — chiefly on the Norwegian faunæ — honors, in the way of medals and degrees, were frequently bestowed upon him.

He became Director of the Zoölogical Museum of Christiania in 1882, and two years thereafter Professor of Zoölogy at the University.

Collett's first published paper dealt with the avifauna of the region in which the city of Christiania is situated, and this, as time went on, was followed by numerous and substantial contributions to almost every department of zoölogy, including the science of morphology. One of his best known achievements in the latter direction was a monograph upon the structure of the external parts of the ears of the *Strigilæ*. Professor Collett also gave us a number of excellent popular works upon Norwegian ornithology, and was a constant contributor to the zoölogical periodicals of his own and other countries.

Prof. Collett built up a superb and well stocked museum at Norway's capital. He published only recently an elegant volume on the Mammalia of his country, and at the time of his death was engaged upon the Reptilia; indeed, it was his intention to so treat the entire vertebrate fauna of Norway.— R. W. S.

IN the death of Chester A. Reed of Worcester, Mass., on December 16, 1912, the Union lost an Associate of much promise. While only thirty-six years of age Mr. Reed had already attained a wide reputation by his publications on popular bird study. He early conceived the idea that colored illustrations were the surest means of obtaining a familiarity with birds and in all his works, the furnishing of adequate illustrations was the chief aim.

In the use both of the camera and the brush he had acquired great skill and his efforts have contributed not a little to the spread of the popular knowledge of bird life which has marked the past few years. His most notable publications have been his 'Bird Guide'; 'Flower Guide'; 'North American Birds' Eggs'; 'Birds of Eastern North America'; 'Nature Studies in Field and Wood'; and 'Camera Studies of Wild Birds.'

WILLIAM BERNHARD TEGETMEIER, the English ornithologist, died on November 20, 1912, at the age of 96 years. He was born in Buckinghamshire, November 4, 1816, and was noted for his investigations on the breeding of Pigeons, Poultry and Pheasants. He was a correspondent of Darwin and furnished him with much information derived from his experiments in breeding and variation.

At the 30th annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Cambridge, Mass., November 11, 1912, it was voted to publish an index to the volumes of 'The Auk' from 1901-1910, inclusive, and the appointment of a committee to undertake the work was authorized. The President has appointed Dr. T. S. Palmer as Chairman with authority to select the members of the committee. Dr. Palmer informs us that the Index Committee as at present organized comprises:

Dr. T. S. Palmer, Chairman; Prof. W. W. Cooke, Secretary; Dr. A. K. Fisher, N. Hollister, A. B. Howell, A. H. Howell, D. E. Lantz, H. H. T. Jackson, W. L. McAtee, Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., E. A. Preble, J. H. Riley, and John G. Tyler. The work, he states, has been divided so that ten of the members will do the actual indexing and the other three will prepare the copy for the press. The plan of this index is the same as that of the 25-year index published in 1907. It is expected that the same high standard of completeness and accuracy will be maintained and with much less labor than was necessary in the preparation of the larger work. The Biological Survey already has the material for a 10-year index on cards prepared by Prof. Cooke. These cards have been divided among the indexers, the entries for one volume being given each member to check with the text and make any necessary additions or corrections. The cards are then to be returned to the secretary who will rearrange them in a single alphabet and prepare the final copy for the printer. This copy will then be divided into 10 equal parts and given to the indexers a second time before being sent to press. In this way much of the arduous labor of writing cards can be avoided and the entries checked twice with a minimum of effort.

The work is already well under way and one fourth of the cards have been returned to the secretary. It is expected that all will be returned by May 1 and that the final copy can be prepared, verified, and made ready for the press before the next annual meeting.

An editorial in a recent number of the 'Wilson Bulletin' contemplates the organization of an Ornithological Society — or rather the extension of the existing Wilson Club — to cover the Interior states and to hold annual meetings for the purpose of bringing the members into close personal touch. It seems to us that such a movement cannot be too strongly commended, the one weak point in the organization of the Wilson Club has always seemed to be this lack of personal contact, which is all important in stimulating ornithological activity.

The geographic arrangement of Ornithological Societies mentioned in the closing paragraph does not, however, seem to us a very happy one, *i. e.* "The Cooper Club on the Pacific side, the A. O. U. on the Atlantic, and the Wilson Club in the Interior." The A. O. U. is in no sense local in its activities and it draws its strength from the Pacific and Interior states as well as from the Atlantic coast. The holding of its meetings in the east has been because the great majority of active ornithologists are located there and almost all the invitations for holding the annual meetings have come from eastern cities. Moreover the burden imposed upon the local members on such occasions is unfortunately considerable and makes it difficult to entertain the Union except in cities where there are a large number of resident members.

A better grouping would we think be: "The Cooper Club on the Pacific side, the Wilson Club in the Interior and the Nuttall and Delaware Valley Clubs in the east; with the A. O. U. covering all three districts and meeting now in one and now in another, according to the invitations received and the number of active ornithologists who could be guaranteed to be in attendance. For some time to come the A. O. U. meetings will probably be held mainly in the east for the reasons already cited, but the proposed activity of the Wilson Club would we feel sure, soon result in invitations to meet somewhere in the interior which would, we have no doubt, be promptly accepted. The Cooper Club has already successfully managed one A. O. U. meeting on 'the coast' and bids fair to duplicate it in the near future.

Meanwhile an Annual meeting of the Wilson Club will undoubtedly draw the ornithologists of the interior states into close association and if held at a time other than that of the A. O. U. meeting will ensure them an opportunity for personal contact without conflicting with the more general gathering. The movement will also concentrate their energies and resources so that an A. O. U. meeting in one of the Interior states will we trust, be an event of the near future.

MESSRS. F. M. Chapman and Louis Agassiz Fuertes with four assistants, sailed for Colombia on January 8, to continue their explorations of the avifauna of that country in the interests of the American Museum of Natural History. They expect to make collections in the vicinity of Bogota and then cross the mountains to the east and descend into the headwaters of the Orinoco, thus connecting their previous work in western Colombia with that now being prosecuted by another party in the Orinoco drainage, and making as it were an ornithological cross section of the country.

UNUSUAL activity in game legislation has been manifest this winter and Dr. T. S. Palmer of the U. S. Biological Survey has sent us the following summary of this work:— Since the beginning of the year Congress and the legislatures of 41 States have been in session, and the total number of game bills under consideration is probably between 400 and 500. The average of 10 such bills per State is reduced to one in some cases and in others as in Connecticut increased to nearly 60, and in California to 93. The fate of many of these measures is still uncertain. At this date, March 15, Congress and the legislatures of Indiana, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming have adjourned and their record is closed.

The great event of the year is the passage of the Federal migratory bird bill as an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriation bill on the last day of the session. This measure has been before Congress for more than eight years, and during the past year a campaign for its enactment unequalled in the history of game legislation has been waged by the American Game Protective Association, the National Association of Audubon Societies, and other friends of wild life conservation. As finally enacted it differs but slightly from the bill originally introduced by Hon. George Shiras, 3d, in December, 1904, and authorizes the Department of Agriculture to fix seasons for migratory game and insectivorous birds, and imposes a maximum penalty of \$100 fine or 90 days imprisonment for killing such birds out of season. On March 3, the day before his retirement, President Taft signed an order making the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, a reservation in charge of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. This reservation, the 61st in the list of National Bird Refuges and one of the largest, includes all the islands from Unimak west to Attu. Congress has been preparing for new tariff legislation and during the hearings before the Ways and Means Committee of the House on January 30, Dr. W. T. Hornaday, representing the New York Zoölogical Society, Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, Secretary of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and Dr. George W. Field, Chairman of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission, urged the amendment of Schedule N so as to prohibit the importation into the United States of the plumage of wild birds. The result of their efforts is still uncertain as the bill will not be reported until the special session in April.

In the State legislatures plumage bills similar to the New York Shea

law have been introduced in Indiana and Pennsylvania (S. 46) and have passed one branch of the legislature with a fair chance of enactment in spite of the active opposition of the millinery interests. Among other measures of special interest to ornithologists may be mentioned the Tennessee law removing the Robin from the game list, the Pennsylvania bill (S. 45) protecting the Dove, Killdeer and Blackbird throughout the year which had passed, the California bill placing Wild pigeons, Doves, and all Limicolæ on the nongame list (S. 1190), the bills in Connecticut (H. 222) and New Jersey (A. 206) removing protection from the Starling, and the effort in Connecticut to restore the provision for issuing permits for scientific collecting. Oregon has established several important State game preserves and revised her entire game law, Vermont has likewise adopted an entirely new game code, and Wyoming has stopped spring shooting of ducks and geese (S. F. 11).

The usual number of bills permitting spring shooting has been introduced especially in Connecticut, New York, and Colorado, but in Wisconsin the measure met a decisive defeat in the Assembly Committee. Texas is considering the withdrawal of protection from pelicans and certain other fish-eating birds. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, and South Dakota are struggling with the question of reorganization of their game departments, and California has under consideration several freak bills, one of which (A. 287) proposes to divide the State into 58 game districts, one for each county, and another (A. 1992) to make every member of the legislature a game warden who shall serve without compensation.

WE learn from the Press Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Mines that the Victoria Memorial Museum has just received a fine collection of several hundred Canadian birds, the gift of Mr. J. H. Fleming. The specimens are said to constitute one of the best mounted collections in Canada.

A CIRCULAR issued by the editor of 'British Birds' states that the readers of this magazine have placed over 32,000 rings on wild birds of various kinds. The most striking of the numerous 'return records' that have been received is that of a Swallow, banded by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield at Roschill Cheadle, Staffordshire, England, May 6, 1911, and found near Utrecht, Natal, South Africa, on December 23, 1912.

AT the annual meeting of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union the Check List Committee, which has for some years been engaged in preparing a list of Australian birds, presented its report. The facts that trinomials are rejected, and that the principle of priority is not carried farther back than the dates contained in the works of John Gould, will demonstrate how absolutely this list will differ from the recent list published by Mr. Gregory M. Mathews.

We fear that Australian Ornithologists are not advancing the interests

of systematic ornithology by adopting such rules as the above. We are already seeing evidence of the dilemma in which the rejection of trinomials has placed them, when we find in their latest publications some new binomial names denoted as species and others as subspecies! The publication of the Check List will be looked forward to with much interest.

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, on January 2, 1913. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Stewardson Brown; Vice-President, Henry W. Fowler; Secretary, J. Fletcher Street and Treasurer, Samuel C. Palmer; Robert T. Moore continues as editor of *Cassinia*.

Some of the more important communications presented before the Club during the year were: A Trip to the Magdalen Islands, by W. L. Baily; A Trip to Ecuador with Special Reference to the Tierra Templada, by Samuel N. Rhoads; The Classification of Birds, by Spencer Trotter, M. D.; Summer Birds of McKenzie Pond, Adirondacks, by E. L. Poole; and The Embryology of a Bird, by Samuel C. Palmer.

THE J. P. Bell Co., Lynchburg, Va., announces the early publication of a work on 'The Breeding Birds of Virginia,' by Mr. Harold H. Bailey. The volume will comprise about 300 pages of text with 14 colored plates and one hundred half-tones. The edition will be limited and orders should be sent to H. H. Bailey, Newport News, Va., Price, exclusive of postage \$3.

MESSRS. WITHERBY & Co. are shortly publishing for Mr. H. Kirke Swann 'A Dictionary of English and Folk-Names of British Birds,' which will contain some five thousand names with their meanings and localities as well as much information on the Folk-Lore, Weather-Lore, and Legends connected with birds.

JUST as we go to press we have received a copy of Mr. Robert Ridgway's long expected Color Book under the title 'Color Standards and Color Nomenclature.' Washington, D. C. Published by the Author. \$8. (cash with order), postage extra, registered 20 cts.

The work consists of forty-three pages of text and fifty-three colored plates depicting 1115 named colors! Besides furnishing an indispensable standard of colors for naturalists and others who have to deal with fine gradations of tints it constitutes a thoroughly scientific presentation of the entire subject of colors and their relationship.

DR. J. A. ALLEN of the American Museum of Natural History, formerly editor of 'The Auk,' sailed for Europe last month as one of the American delegates to the Ninth International Zoological Congress, to be held at

Monaco, March 25-29. One of the most important questions likely to be brought before the Congress for discussion, and one in which Dr. Allen is deeply interested, is the proposition to depart from the rule of absolute priority in regard to generic and specific names. We trust that no change in the rules bearing upon this matter will be authorized and that the painstaking work of the Commission toward a uniform standard nomenclature may be allowed to proceed unhampered.